

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 RSC-01 EA-13 L-02 SP-02 PRS-01 DRC-01 /056 W

----- 126595

R 122315Z SEP 74

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5382

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3139

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, PFOR, UNGA, CB, JA

SUBJ: KHMER AT 29TH GA: US-JAPAN BILATERAL

REF: USUN 3129

SUMMARY: AT US-JAPAN UN BILATERALS SEPTEMBER 12, WE STRESSED OUR RELIANCE ON JAPANESE AND ASIAN "LEADERSHIP" ON KHMER ISSUE WHILE EMPHASIZING IMPORTANCE WE PLACE ON OUTCOME AND OUR DETERMINATION TO LEND ALL POSSIBLE SUPPORT. JAPANESE URGED THAT WE LOBBY IN CAPITALS AND WE CITED SECRETARY'S RECENT INSTRUCTION. BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT WE COULD NOT AT THIS STAGE BE CONFIDENT. END SUMMARY.

1. KHMER WAS FIRST ITEM ON AGENDA OF ANNUAL US-JAPAN BILATERALS ON UNGA, HELD SEPTEMBER 12 AT USUN.

2. JAPANESE REPORTED ON ASIAN WORKING GROUP CONSULTATIONS SUBSTANTIALLY AS SUMMARIZED REFTTEL, ADDING THAT INDONESIAN AMB
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MALIK, ON ASEAN BEHALF, WILL PROBE SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARD

PROPOSAL FOR CAMBODIAN FACT-FINDING MISSION, HOPING FOR SOME SOVIET SHIFT, IMPLICIT IN CYPRUS ISSUE, ON PRINCIPLE OF SUCH MISSIONS.

3. WE TOOK CARE TO UNDERLINE OUR RELIANCE ON AND DEFERENCE TO ASIAN SUPPORTERS OF GKR, HIGHLIGHTING IN PARTICULAR THE IMPORTANCE WE GIVE TO JAPANESE LEADERSHIP AND TO US-JAPAN COOPERATION ON ISSUE. BY CITING SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PERSONAL MESSAGE TO SELECTED CAPITALS ON KHMER ISSUE AND OUR CONCERN OVER PRINCIPLE THAT WOULD BE VIOLATED BY ADOPTION OF PROGRUNK RESOLUTION, WE SOUGHT TO LEAVE JAPANESE NO ROOM FOR DOUBT THAT, WHATEVER LOW POSTURE WE MIGHT FOR TACTICAL REASONS ADOPT IN NEW YORK AT THIS STAGE, USG WOULD RENDER VIGOROUS AND CONSTANT SUPPORT HERE AND IN CAPITALS AGAINST SIHANOUK RESOLUTION. WE ALSO POINTED UP PIVOTAL NATURE OF AFRICAN VOTES.

4. BOTH AMB SAITO AND IO DIRECTOR GENERAL SUZUKI MADE CLEAR THAT JAPANESE AT THIS STAGE ARE LESS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT SUCCESS THIS YEAR COMPARED TO 28TH GA. WE, IN FRANK EXCHANGE, INDICATED WE SHARED JAPANESE CONCERN, BUT EMPHASIZED OUR VIEW THAT WE WERE IN PRELIMINARY STAGE, THAT JAPANESE AND ASIAN COLLEAGUES APPEARED TO BE MOVING ENERGETICALLY ON CONSTRUCTIVE TRACK AND THAT CAREFUL PLANNING AND HARD WORK WOULD BRING US THROUGH. WE REMINDED JAPANESE SIDE THAT, WHILE IT WAS NECESSARY TO EXCHANGE FRANK ASSESSMENTS PRIVATELY, AN IMPRESSION OF CONFIDENCE IN OUTCOME SHOULD BE CONVEYED TO OTHERS.

5. JAPANESE OF COURSE AGREED WITH LATTER POINT, BUT SAITO WENT ON TO STATE JAPANESE CONCERN WITH PROBLEM OF KEEPING ASEANS ABOARD. HE AFFIRMED THAT "FOR TIME BEING" THEY ARE BEHIND GKR ON ISSUE, BUT HE INDICATED ANXIETY ABOUT THEIR ATTITUDE AS TIME PASSES.

6. FOLLOWING SAITO'S COMMENT THAT ASIAN SUPPORTERS OF GKR HAD EXPRESSED PARTICULAR "RESPECT" FOR US ROLE AND PUT SPECIAL WEIGHT ON IMPORTANCE OF US ACTIVITY, SCALI, WHILE REAFFIRMING OUR DETERMINATION ON ISSUE, CAUTIONED THAT ASIANS SHOULD NOT COUNT ON "MAGIC" SOLUTION BY SECRETARY KISSINGER. HARD WORK BY ALL OF US WAS BEST PRESCRIPTION FOR NOW.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974USUNN03139
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740255-0986
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740950/aaaabqai.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: USUN 3129
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUL 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <17 MAR 2003 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KHMER AT 29TH GA: US-JAPAN BILATERAL
TAGS: PORG, PFOR, CB, JA, UNGA, GRUNK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005